

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for recording at least one message associated with a
2 prepaid telephone calling card, comprising:

3 a data storage system for storing data corresponding to the
4 prepaid telephone calling card and the related to a service
5 associated with the prepaid telephone calling card; and

6 a prepaid telephone calling card processing system
7 coupled to said data storage system and configured to receive a
8 request to record the message during a service setup call over a
9 telephone network and to cause the message to be recorded
10 during said setup call.

1 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said data storage
2 system and said prepaid calling card processing system are
3 remotely located.

1 3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said data
2 corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card includes a
3 quantity corresponding to a number of service units available
4 to be used to make at least one call in relation to the prepaid
5 telephone calling card.

1 4. The system according to claim 3, wherein said service units
2 correspond to telephone call service minutes.

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1 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said data
2 corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card includes a
3 quantity corresponding to a number of service units available
4 to be used to make at least one call in relation to the prepaid
5 telephone calling card.

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1 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said service units
2 correspond to telephone call service minutes.

1 12. The method according to claim 9, wherein said causing step
2 further comprises the step of recording the message in
3 accordance with a card identifier corresponding to the prepaid
4 telephone calling card.

1 13. The method according to claim 9, wherein the message stored
2 during said causing step is to be played back automatically
3 during an access call related to the prepaid telephone calling
4 card.

1 14. A method of using a prepaid telephone calling card,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 accessing the prepaid telephone calling card processing
4 system during a prepaid telephone calling card service setup call
5 via a telephone network;

6 entering a card identifier corresponding to data
7 addressable by said prepaid telephone calling card processing
8 system; and

9 recording at least one message during said service setup
10 call, said message being addressable by said prepaid telephone
11 calling card processing system during a subsequent telephone
12 service access call.

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1 5. The system according to claim 1, wherein said prepaid
2 telephone calling card processing system causes the message
3 to be recorded within said data storage system in accordance
4 with a card identifier corresponding to the prepaid telephone
5 calling card.

1 6. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a voice
2 data storage facility coupled to said prepaid telephone calling
3 card processing system and to said data storage system, and
4 operative to store the message based on a card identifier
5 corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card.

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1 7. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a voice
2 response system coupled to said prepaid calling card
3 processing system and configured to prompt a caller to record
4 the message via at least one voice prompt during said service
5 setup call over said telephone network.

1 8. The system according to claim 1, wherein the message is to
2 be played back via said prepaid telephone calling processing
3 system during an access call related to the prepaid telephone
4 calling card, said access call made in accordance with the use
5 of the prepaid telephone calling card.

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1 9. A method for recording at least one message associated with
2 a prepaid telephone calling card, comprising the steps of:

3 storing data corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling
4 card and the message;

5 receiving a request to record the message during a service
6 setup call over a telephone network; and

7 causing the message to be recorded during said service
8 setup call and the message to be played back during an access
9 call related to use of the prepaid telephone calling card.

1 15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said message is
2 stored in a data storage system in accordance with said card
3 identifier.

1 16. The method according to claim 14, wherein said telephone
2 network is the publicly switched telephone network (PSTN).

1 17. A system for facilitating the use of a prepaid telephone calling
2 card, comprising:

3 a data storage system storing data corresponding to the
4 prepaid telephone calling card and to at least one message
5 related to the prepaid telephone calling card; and

6 a prepaid telephone calling card processing system
7 coupled to said data storage system and configured to receive a
8 request to play said message stored in relation to the prepaid
9 telephone calling card during an access call over a telephone
10 network and to cause said message to be played during said
11 access call.

1 18. The system according to claim 17, wherein said data storage
2 system and said prepaid calling card processing system are
3 remotely located.

1 19. The system according to claim 17, wherein said data
2 corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card includes a
3 quantity corresponding to a number of service units available
4 to be used to make at least one call in relation to the prepaid
5 telephone calling card.

1 20. The system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one
2 call is a long distance telephone call.

1 21. The system according to claim 19, wherein said service units
2 correspond to telephone call service minutes.

1 22. The system according to claim 17, wherein said prepaid
2 telephone calling card processing system causes said
3 message to be played back in accordance with a card
4 identifier corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card.

1 23. The system according to claim 17, further comprising a voice
2 data storage facility coupled to said prepaid telephone calling
3 card processing system and to said data storage system, and
4 operative to allow said message to be played back in
5 accordance with a card identifier corresponding to the prepaid
6 telephone calling card.

1 24. The system according to claim 17, further comprising a voice
2 response system coupled to the prepaid calling card
3 processing system and configured to prompt a caller with at
4 least one voice prompt related to the automatic playback of
5 said message during said access call.

1 25. A method for facilitating the use of a prepaid telephone calling
2 card, comprising the steps of:

3 storing data corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling
4 card and to at least one message related to the prepaid telephone
5 calling card;

6 receiving a request to automatically play said message
7 stored in relation to the prepaid telephone calling card during an
8 access call over a telephone network; and

9 causing said message to be played during said access call.

1 26. The method according to claim 25, wherein said data
2 corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card includes a
3 quantity corresponding to a number of service units available
4 to be used to make an outbound call.

1 27. The method according to claim 25, wherein said causing step
2 causes said message to be played back in accordance with a
3 card identifier corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling
4 card.

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